



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/073,238

02/13/2002

Karl W. Potts

BS01-272

4418

7590

09/12/2005

Withers & Keys LLC

P O Box 71355

Marietta, GA 30007-1355

EXAMINER

PHAN, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/073,238	<b>Applicant(s)</b> POTTS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Joseph T. Phan	<b>Art Unit</b> 2645	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chawla et al., Patent #5,812,640.**
3. **Claims 1-33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipate by Silver, Patent #6,240,174.**

Regarding claim 1, Chawla or Silver teaches a system for providing recorded announcements on a communications network comprising: at least one central terminal for routing communications on the communication network by receiving incoming calls and routing the incoming calls to a destination on the communications network and the at least one central terminal being in communication with the network; and an announcement service node coupled to the central terminal further comprising a data schema and an application server for accessing the data schema, wherein the application server is accessible by one or more central terminals coupled to

Art Unit: 2645

the communications network and, wherein said data schema comprises a storage mass for storing a plurality of recorded announcements that include information for callers on the communications network, wherein a call from an individual is connected to the at least one central terminal with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node while the call from the individual is connected to the at least one central terminal so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65; Chawla has an announcement service node which includes a plurality of announcements for callers*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 2, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein said storage mass comprises a relational database (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 3, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said stored recording announcements are in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 4, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 1, further comprising an SS7 network, wherein at least one central terminal

Art Unit: 2645

initiates queries to said announcement service node via the SS7 network

*(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);*

*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 5, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 4, wherein said central terminal comprises a central office of a telephone service network*(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);*  
*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 6, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 5, wherein said central office initiates queries to said announcement service node in X.25 protocol*(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);* *(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22)**(X.25 is a well-known design choice protocol).*

Regarding claim 7, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of central offices of a telephone service provider coupled to the service node of the telephone service provider *(Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65);*  
*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 8, Chawla or Silver teaches an application server system for accessing a database at a service node in a communications network comprising;  
a plurality of central offices connected to the network means for accessing the database connected to said network for storing recorded announcements in response to queries from one or more of said plurality of central offices, wherein

Art Unit: 2645

the recorded announcements include information for users who place calls on the communication network; means for storing and dynamically maintaining the recorded announcements stored in the database; and means for providing recorded announcements to at least one central office on the network upon a call from an individual being connected to the central office where the means for providing is separate from the at least one central office and maintains a communication link to the at least one central office such that the recorded announcement is provided from the means for storing the recorded announcements to the at least one central office while the call from the individual is connected to the central office such that the recorded announcement audibly conveys information to the calling individual as the recorded announcement is played from the central office during the call(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65; Chawla has an announcement service node which includes a plurality of announcements for callers*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 9, Chawla or Silver teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said database comprises a relational database(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 10, Chawla or Silver teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said database is in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Art Unit: 2645

Regarding claim 11, Chawla or Silver teaches a server according to claim 9, wherein said relational database is dynamically updateable by an external administrator(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 12, Chawla or Silver teaches a server according to claim 8, wherein said means for storing recorded announcements is updateable by an external administrator(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 13, Chawla or Silver teaches a server according to claim 8, comprising means for retrieving a caller's file based on a query from a central office of a telephone communication network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 14, Chawla or Silver teaches a system for routing files of recorded announcements on a communications network, the system comprising: a switch circuit coupled to the communications network and being connected to an individual who has placed a call; at least one recorded announcement file coupled to the switch circuit via a trunk network while the switch is connected to the individual who has placed the call, a service node for storing recorded announcements, said service node coupled to the switch circuit and accessible by a plurality of switch networks on the communications network, the at least one

Art Unit: 2645

recorded announcement file including information for the individual who places calls on the communications network;

a plurality of applications coupled to the service node for sending queries to the service node and routing means for providing recorded announcements from the service node to one or more users of the communications network through the switch in response to the queries from the applications, wherein the recorded announcements audibly convey information to the one or more users as the recorded announcement is played from the switch and through the routing means during the call(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 15, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 14, comprising: at least one database containing a plurality of files related to users of said network, wherein the at least one database is coupled to the service node(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 16, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 14, wherein said communications network is an Intranet system (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 17, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 14, wherein said communications network is an Internet system (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).



Art Unit: 2645

Regarding claim 18, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 14, where said service node comprises means for translating protocol for recorded messages for a switch on the communications network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 19, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 14, comprising means for matching a user's communication with a trigger on the communications network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 20, Chawla or Silver teaches a system according to claim 19, comprising means for identifying a user's recorded announcement file based at least in part on the matched user's communication (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claims 21, 24, and 25, Chawla or Silver teaches a centralized recorded announcement system, method, and computer-readable medium for providing recorded announcements to devices on a telephone service provider network, the system comprising: means and steps for triggering a request for a recorded announcement, the recorded announcement including information for users who place calls on the telephone service provider network;  
means and steps for identifying a requested recorded announcement, retrieving, in response to a request for an announcement from a device, at least one

Art Unit: 2645

recorded announcement file from a centralized storage mass coupled to the centralized announcement system and the network of said telephone service provider ;means and steps for sending a recorded announcement request to a database, means and steps for updating said database based on current recorded announcements of said system; and means and steps for sending an identified recorded announcement from said database to a device of the telephone service provider network while the device of the service provider network is connected to a user who has placed a call on the telephone service provider network; means for audibly conveying/playing a recorded announcement file from a central office to the user or customer who has placed a call on the telephone service provider network by playing the message from the device of the telephone service for the customer during the call(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 22, Chawla or Silver teaches a centralized recorded announcement system according to claim 21, comprising means for identifying a user of said service provider upon triggering a request for a recorded announcement(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 23, Chawla or Silver teaches a centralized recorded announcement system according to claim 22, comprising means for retrieving a recorded announcement file from said database for at least one identified

Art Unit: 2645

user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 26, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 25, comprising the steps of identifying a user of said network based on a communication from the user's device on the network; and retrieving at least one recorded announcement for the user based in part on the identification of said user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 27, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of identifying the user based on Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 28, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of identifying the user based on a code dialed by said user(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);

(*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

Regarding claim 29, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of-. identifying the user based on Automatic Number Identification (ANI) (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-*

Art Unit: 2645

65);

*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 30, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the step of coupling a plurality of queries for recorded announcements to said centralized announcement service node via an SS7 network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 31, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the steps of adding a recorded announcement to said centralized storage mass; and providing a translation to a switch on the network correlating to the added recorded announcement(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 32, Chawla or Silver teaches a method of providing recorded announcements to devices on a network according to claim 26, comprising the steps of prioritizing a plurality of queries for recorded announcements from one or more central offices on the network; and providing a plurality of recorded announcements to said one or more central offices on the network(*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*);  
*(Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22).*

Regarding claim 33, Chawla or Silver teaches a method for providing recorded announcements to users of a telecommunications system, the method comprising: a step for triggering a request for a recorded announcement by initiating a call on said system to a device of the telecommunications system, the recorded announcement including information for users who place calls on the telecommunications system; a step for generating a query for a recorded announcement from the device while the device is connected to the call, the query based at least in part on the recorded announcement request triggered from said user; a step for sending the query from the device while the device is connected to the call to one or more data storage schemas via a network, the query corresponding to one or more recorded announcement triggers initiated by the call and a step for sending at least one recorded announcement to a user of the system in response to the query from the device, wherein sending the at least one recorded announcement to the user includes audibly conveying information to the user as the recorded announcement is played from the device of the telecommunications system during the call (*Chawla Fig.2-3, col.6 line 34-col.7 line 16 and col.9 lines 55-65*); (*Silver Fig.2 and Fig.4, abstract, col.3 lines 38-48, and col.7 lines 14-22*).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It is noted that two references are used since the broadness of the claims allowed the interpretation of both prior art references.

Art Unit: 2645


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTP  
August 28, 2005



FAN TSANG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600